

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

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Mikhail Cirkunvos,

Plaintiff,

v.

Zuffa LLC, et al.,

Defendants.

Case No. 2:25-cv-00914-RFB-BNW

ORDER

Before this Court is Defendants' motion seeking to seal and/or redact exhibits attached to the Joint Status Report Regarding Discovery Deficiencies (at ECF No. 75).¹ ECF No. 84. No opposition has been filed.

I. Analysis

Generally, the public has a right to inspect and copy judicial records. *Kamakana v. City & Cnty. of Honolulu*, 447 F.3d 1172, 1178 (9th Cir. 2006). Such records are presumptively publicly accessible. *Id.* Consequently, a party seeking to seal a judicial record bears the burden of overcoming this strong presumption. *Id.* In the case of dispositive motions, the party seeking to seal the record must articulate compelling reasons supported by specific factual findings that outweigh the general history of access and the public policies favoring disclosure, such as the public interest in understanding the judicial process. *Id.* at 1178-79 (alteration and internal quotation marks and citations omitted). The Ninth Circuit has further held that the full presumption of public access applies to technically non-dispositive motions and attached documents as well if the motion is "more than tangentially related to the merits of the case." *Ctr. for Auto Safety v. Chrysler Grp., LLC*, 809 F.3d 1092, 1101 (9th Cir. 2016).

Among the compelling reasons which may justify sealing a record are when such court files might have become a vehicle for improper purposes, such as the use of records to gratify

¹ The sealed/unredacted brief and exhibits are filed at ECF No. 77.

1 private spite, promote public scandal, circulate libelous statements, or release trade secrets.
2 *Kamakana*, 447 F.3d at 1179 (quotation omitted). However, avoiding a litigant’s embarrassment,
3 incrimination, or exposure to further litigation will not, without more, compel the court to seal its
4 records. *Id.*

5 “[A] different standard applies to ‘private materials unearthed during discovery,’ as such
6 documents are not part of the judicial record.” *Pintos v. Pac. Creditors Ass’n*, 605 F.3d 665 (9th
7 Cir. 2010) (citing *Kamakana*, 447 F.3d at 1180). Under Rule 26(c), a court may enter a protective
8 order “to protect a party or person from annoyance, embarrassment, oppression, or undue burden
9 or expense.” “The relevant standard for purposes of Rule 26(c) is whether good cause exists to
10 protect the information from being disclosed to the public by balancing the needs for discovery
11 against the need for confidentiality.” *Pintos*, 605 F.3d at 678 (quotation omitted). Given the
12 “weaker public interest in nondispositive materials,” the court applies the good cause standard in
13 evaluating whether to seal documents attached to a nondispositive motion. *Id.* “Nondispositive
14 motions ‘are often unrelated, or only tangentially related, to the underlying cause of action,’ and,
15 as a result, the public’s interest in accessing dispositive materials does ‘not apply with equal
16 force’ to non-dispositive materials.” *Id.* (citing *Kamakana*, 447 F.3d at 1179). It is within the
17 court’s discretion whether to seal documents. *Id.* at 679.

18 Defendants seek to seal/redact several documents filed in a joint status report. Because
19 these documents are attached to a matter that is not dispositive or more than tangentially related
20 to the merits of the case, this Court applies the good cause standard. *Kamakana*, 447 F.3d at 1179.

21 Good cause exists to seal/redact the exhibits in question.

22 Exhibits 1, 3, 4, 9, 11, and 13 are discovery-related communications between counsel and
23 discovery charts which include PII of non-party fighters. Redaction of PII is authorized by rule
24 and local practice. Fed. R. Civ. P. 5.2; LR IC 6-1.

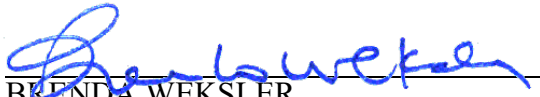
25 Exhibits 6 is an email discussing a non-party fighter’s bout paperwork and confidential
26 financial details. Exhibit 8 is presentation deck which contains sensitive information regarding
27 Endeavor and UFC’s financial information and business strategy. See *Tesla, Inc. v. Tripp*, 487 F.
28 Supp. 3d 953, 975 (D. Nev. 2020) (sealing documents containing proprietary business

1 information); Nixon v. Warner Commc'ns, Inc., 435 U.S. 589, 598 (1978) (recognizing protection
2 of business information that might harm competitive standing)

3 **I. CONCLUSION**

4 **IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that Defendants' Motion to Seal at ECF No. 84 is
5 **GRANTED**. The Clerk of Court is directed to maintain under seal the exhibits at ECF No. 77.

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8 DATED: December 17, 2025
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12 BREND A WEKSLER
13 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
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